

ROOF ARTICLE TRANSPORTER ASSEMBLY

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Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a roof rack assembly for a motor vehicle. More particularly, the invention relates to a roof rack assembly including frame members formed to accommodate various electronic components.

Description of Related Art

Roof racks increase the storage capacity of a motor vehicle by allowing items to be stored atop a roof of the motor vehicle. Roof racks typically include a rectangular-shaped carrier frame mounted along the roof of the motor vehicle, and a plurality of structural ribs mounted to and extending longitudinally along the roof within the carrier frame. The carrier frame includes a front frame member, a rear frame member, and side frame members extending therebetween. A plurality of cross bars extends between the side members to assist in retaining an item upon the roof during operation of the motor vehicle.

More recently, roof racks have been adapted to incorporate various mechanisms or components so that the roof rack may be utilized for more than just storing items above the roof. For example, a roof rack including a lighting mechanism is known to those skilled in the art. Such a roof rack can be provided with a turn light indicator along each corner of the carrier frame, side lights along the side frame members, and rear-facing brake lights along the rear frame member. In addition, a roof rack including an antenna, which improves television reception on a television within a passenger compartment of the motor vehicle, is also known to those skilled in the art. The roof rack that includes a television antenna has a television transformer attached to the carrier frame so that the side frame members and the plurality of cross bars define two branches of the antenna.

Summary of the Invention

According to one aspect of the invention, a roof rack assembly for transporting articles along a roof of a motor vehicle includes a frame member extending along the roof. The roof rack assembly also includes an electronic component secured to the frame member for receiving and transmitting signals to an interior portion of the motor vehicle.